



Report a delivery issue

What's the worst day for traffic before Thanksgiving?

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

17



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Boston was the only city of 21 studied by Google where Tuesday was the worst day to travel.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 23, 2015

Itching to drive out of town for Thanksgiving? You may want to pump the brakes.

You're better off leaving Wednesday, rather than Tuesday, according to traffic data.

Thanksgiving week traffic around the Boston area in recent years has been at its worst on the Tuesday before the holiday, according to data analyzed by [Google Maps](#).

Boston was the only city of 21 studied by Google where Tuesday was the worst day to travel.

Last year, the Tuesday before Turkey Day was the single busiest traffic day of the entire year across the state's toll system, which consists primarily of the Massachusetts Turnpike, according to data from the state transportation department.

Thanksgiving, Black Friday traffic tips

The worst time to drive around the area has been around 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to Google's analysis which was based on speed and location data it collects from Google smartphone users. The company looked at data for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving through the Sunday after for 2012 through 2014.



Study finds 3 worst highway bottlenecks in

SOCIAL SECURITY
SUCKS

palmbeachgroup.com

Born before 1969? You can get
an extra \$4,098 monthly with this



Mass.

Massachusetts is home to three of the worst highway bottlenecks in the country, according a report released Monday.

While Tuesday has been busiest, there can be plenty of congestion leftovers on Wednesday, too. Google said Wednesday ranked second to Tuesday as the worst traffic day of the week. Local roadways were most clogged between 3 and 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

“Better to leave before 1 p.m. or after 5 p.m. Wednesday if you want to beat traffic,” Google said.

The lightest traffic day of the week has been Thanksgiving Day itself, particularly if you're on the road before 11 a.m. or after 1 p.m., as people dig into their meals, according to Google.

And for those of you who are shoppers, there's something to be thankful for: Black Friday traffic in the Boston area in recent years has been better than the other days of the week.

What about the drive home?

You're likely to get home a bit faster if you leave on Sunday instead of Saturday, according to Google.

The company found that Saturday was the third worst day of the week to travel and that traffic was about 20 percent worse on Saturday than on Sunday.

The trend of Saturday being worse than Sunday was similar in other parts of the country.

State transportation officials said that no matter which day you're driving, traffic should be lightest in the early morning or nighttime hours.

“We encourage all drivers to use caution along the roads and for people traveling on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, we urge you to leave either after 8 p.m. or early in the morning.” MassDOT Highway Administrator Thomas J. Tinlin said in a statement.

Other advice for driving this week

State officials suggested using mobile device apps that can help drivers avoid traffic jams.

“I encourage all of our customers to take advantage of real time information that is available to help them catch their train, plane or to avoid any congestion along the highways.” said a statement from MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.

The busiest highway exits have historically been on the Massachusetts Turnpike at Exit 9 at the interchange with Interstate 84; Exit 11A for Interstate 495; Exit 14 for I-95 and Route 128; and Exit 24 for I-93 North and South, state officials said.

The transportation department also recommended using public transportation instead of driving when possible. No matter how you're traveling, allow extra time.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

Get [Today's Headlines](#) from the Globe in your inbox:

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 17 COMMENTS

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

How feds gained an inner look at Mass. drug running

Patriots fall to Dolphins, may have to settle for No. 2 seed

Ben Volin: Were the Patriots playing for No. 1 seed or health?

[Saudi Arabia cuts ties with Iran](#)

[Nick Cafardo: Baseball's big hitters aren't connecting on fre...](#)

[Boston Sand and Gravel and the northbound train](#)

MY ACCOUNT

[Globe reporters, editors mobilize to aid home delivery teams](#)

[DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP](#)

[The Globe's Here](#)

[10 years later, did the Big Dig deliver?](#)

SOCIAL

[FACEBOOK](#)

[Church allowed abuse by priest for years](#)

[GOOGLE+](#)

CONTACT

[HELP](#)

[FAQS](#)

[GLOBE NEWSROOM](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

MORE

[EPAPER](#)

[NEWS IN EDUCATION](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)

[TERMS OF PURCHASE](#)

[YOUR AD CHOICES](#)

[WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA](#)